Privatisation of Railway Stations

4791. SHRI MATANG SINH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 394 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd February, 1994 and state :

(a) the number of workers likely to be rendered surplus as a result of privatising some jobs at various Railway Stations and how much saving in terms of expenditure is likely to be effected in this regard; and

(b) in what manner the surplus workers are proposed to be utilised.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No staff has been render surplus an account of beautification-cum-maintenance scheme introduced at some railway stations. The scheme has been introduced recently. No assessment has yet been made about the saving in expenditure on account of introduction of this scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Helicopters for Railways

4792. SHRI MATANG SINH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase aircrafts and helicopters for Railways ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how much expenditure is likely to be incurred thereon ; and

(c) what is the specific purpose for purchase of aircrafts etc ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHRIEF) : (a) Railways have decided to purchase an aircraft and not helicopters.

(b) Railways have decided to purchase a corporate aircraft "Super King Air 350" model from M/s Beech Aircraft Corporation, U.S.A. at a cost of approximately US $ 4.46 million.

(c) For use in exigencies such as accidents, natural calamities, transportation of injured to hospitals, facilitate movement of personnel at short notice to far off locations to attend urgent work etc.

New Passanger Train from Lumding to New Bongaigaon

4793. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the introduction of new passenger train between the Lumding and New Bongaigaon on the broad gauge line ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHRIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement in the maintenance of Passenger Train in N. F. Railway

4794. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all ordinary passenger trains in the N.F. Railway have dirty coaches and lavatories with poor lighting ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHRIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Broad Gauge from Jogighopa to Guwahati

4795. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds which were made available for the construction of broad-gauge line from Jogighopa to Guwahati and for the construction of a bridge over Brahmaputra river at Jogighopa have been diverted for the construction of broad-gauge line from Guwahati to Lumbding;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government for the construction of broad-gauge line from Jogighopa to Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHRIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work is in progress. Jogighopa-Goalpara (15 kms.) is scheduled for completion in 1995-96 and Goalpara-Guwahati (128 kms.) in 1996-97.

Late running of trains from Guwahati

4796. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all long distance trains from Guwahati run usually late; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent this practice?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHRIEF): (a) No, Sir. However, some trains do run late.

(b) All possible efforts including intensive chasing and close monitoring have been/are being taken to eliminate all detentions within the control of the Railways.

LENGTH OF RAILWAY LINES

4797. SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present length of railway line (State-wise) both metre gauge and broad gauge;

(b) what was the targeted conversion of lines from metre gauge to broad gauge during the Seventh Plan and what is the achievement (State-wise);

(c) what is the proposed target for conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge during the Eighth Plan (State-wise);

(d) what is the criteria fixed for laying a new railway line and for conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge line in a State; and

(e) What are the reasons for discrimination, if any, in laying a new railway line or for conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge in under-developed States?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF)

(a) The length of Railway line (State-wise) as on 21-3-93 is as under :—

Sl. No.	Name of State	B.G. (kms.)	M.G. (kms.)	N.G. (kms.)	Total (kms.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3607.58	1410.59	36.94	5055.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1.26	—	1.26
3.	Assam	266.41	2200.42	—	2466.83
4.	Bihar	3565.65	1681.58	69.15	5316.38
5.	Goa	—	79.06	—	79.06
6.	Gujarat	1754.95	2651.68	874.43	5281.06
7.	Haryana	882.33	612.81	3.38	1498.52
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22.20	—	244.25	266.45
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	68.29	—	—	88.29
10.	Karnataka	903.65	2036.79	148.48	3088.90